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PROCESS FOR PRODUCTION OF ESSENTIALLY  
CHLORIDE-FREE CALCIUM SULFONATE

10 **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to a process for the preparation of a low-base number calcium sulfonate that is essentially chloride free. The process involves 15 preparing a sulfonic acid solution by adding a solvent to a sulfonic acid, optionally removing dissolved or entrained SO<sub>2</sub> or SO<sub>3</sub>, mixing the solution with a specific amount of water and calcium hydroxide, heating the mixture, separating out excess calcium hydroxide from the 20 mixture, removing the solvent and recovering the calcium sulfonate product in oil.